

MONTIA LINEARIS (PORTULACACEAE), NEW TO MISSISSIPPI — While examining a shipment of exchange specimens that the junior author had sent to MICH in 1989, the senior author and A. A. Reznicek (MICH) noticed that two specimens determined as *Claytonia virginica* looked odd. In a later communication, the junior author noted that he also thought that the specimens looked a little strange for *C. virginica*, but thought that their appearance might be attributed to the use of herbicides along roadsides where they were found.

The presence of white rather than dark-veined pink petals ruled out *C. virginica* immediately. The combination of fibrous roots and alternate cauline leaves excluded the plants from the genus *Claytonia*, suggesting instead that they belonged in the genus *Montia*. Comparison with the MICH holdings of *Montia* revealed that the Mississippi collections were specimens of *Montia linearis* (Dougl. ex Hook.) Greene, narrow-leaved montia, a native western species found at lower elevations from British Columbia south to California and eastward to southwestern Saskatchewan, Montana, and Utah (Hitchcock & Cronquist 1973, Scoggan 1978). These determinations were subsequently confirmed by Walter A. Kelley of Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Montia linearis is known from the following collections:

MISSISSIPPI: Coahoma Co.: between highway and old railroad tracks, along US 49W between Tutwiler and Rome, T25N, R3W, S36, SE½, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7483* (SWSL) & 7572 (MICH, SWSL). Panola Co.: wet area N of MS Hwy 6, 11.4 mi W of Batesville, T9S, R9W, S20, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7553* (SWSL). Quitman Co.: wet area along MS Hwy 3, S of Marks, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7537* (SWSL). Sunflower Co.: wet area along US 49W, 5 mi N of Drew, T23N, R3W, S4, NE¼, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7544* (SWSL). Tallahatchie Co.: wet area, W side of US 49W, 1 mi S of Tutwiler, T25N, R2W, S31, NW¼, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7458* (IBE, SWSL); roadside park, jct. of US 49E & 49W, S of Tutwiler, 4 May 1988, *Bryson 7500* (MICH, SWSL); 11 Apr 1990, *Bryson & Newton 8775 & 8783* (CLEMS, DUR, FLAS, GA, IBE, MESA, MICH, MMNS, MO, NCU, NLU, NY, OSC, SMU, SWSL, TAES, TENN, UARK, UC, VDB, VSC, and WTU).

This is the first report of the genus *Montia* in the Southeastern United States. Its occurrence along roadsides in five counties strongly suggests an introduction from an unknown source, possibly the first such occurrence outside of its native range. It may have arrived via a railroad source since all but the Panola County site are within ¼ mi of Illinois Central Gulf track-age abandoned in the 1980's.

The largest of these populations is at the roadside park just south of Tutwiler. The plants here occur in open areas or under widely scattered *Quercus nigra* and *Q. phellos* on poorly drained, heavy clay and/or on well

drained, sandy, loam soils. Within the park, *M. linearis* is colonial much like populations of *Claytonia*, ranging from a few plants to several thousands over areas of less than one square meter or up to 30 m² in size.

Since we have no information on when the species may have first arrived, it is likely that either other specimens may exist in herbaria, likewise assumed to be *Claytonia virginica*, or that it has been overlooked. From the habitat range of these collections, *M. linearis* may be expected in other locations within the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta Region along roadsides or in cemeteries, roadside parks, and even lawns. — *Richard K. Rabeler, University of Michigan Herbarium, North University Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1057, U.S.A. and Charles T. Bryson, USDA-ARS, Southern Weed Science Laboratory, Stoneville, MS 38776, U.S.A.*

REFERENCES

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 SCOGGAN, H.J. 1978. The flora of Canada, Part 3 - Dicotyledoneae (Saururaceae to Violaceae). *Natl. Mus. Canada Natl. Mus. Nat. Sci., Publ. Bot.* 7: 547-1115.

CAREX COMOSA (CYPERACEAE), NEW TO MISSISSIPPI. — *Carex comosa* Boott is a large, conspicuous sedge that inhabits low, wet, non-acid soils (Mackenzie 1935). It occurs from southeastern Canada to Minnesota, generally southward to central peninsular Florida and west to Texas, and in the west from California to Washington, eastward to Idaho (Steyermark 1968, Godfrey and Wooten 1979). It is disjunct in central Mexico (Hermann 1974). However, the nearest known record to Mississippi is from Crittenden County, Arkansas which is adjacent to and across the Mississippi River from Mississippi and Tennessee (Smith 1978). Despite searches for this species, especially by the senior author during the past decade, *C. comosa* had not been found within the boundaries of Mississippi.

While on a collecting trip, *C. comosa* was found growing at an oxbow lake in Coahoma County located in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Region. Similar oxbow lakes are scattered throughout the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Region.

Specimens collected: MISSISSIPPI. Coahoma Co.: 5.6 mi (9 km) N on US 49 from its jct. with MS 3, E side of US 49, Home Cypress Hunting Club Lake, NE Dublin; E of US 49, Sec. 34, T26N, R3W, 15 May 1990, *Bryson 9858 & S. & G. Jones* (crb, private collection of Charles T. Bryson, DSC, GA, IBE, MICH, MMNS, NLU, SWSL, TENN, UARK, VDB, VSC, WARM); *S. & G. Jones 4719 & Bryson* (ASTC, SMU, SWT, TAES, TEX, US).